

SECRET***OGC Has Reviewed***

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SECURITY INFORMATION

26 November 1951

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Review of clearance

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1. With respect to the attached inquiry concerning [REDACTED] and other discussions we have had on this subject, my suggestion is that there should be established a Security Policy Committee, consisting perhaps of the principal deputy and the other three deputies whose function it would be to review, at the request of any Assistant Director, major security policies of the Agency. This would include such questions as the following:

a. Policies with respect to limited clearance for persons of some security risk whose services are urgently needed by the Agency (such as almost any academic expert on the USSR). At the moment it seems to be Agency policy to approve as consultants only individuals who can be cleared through TOP SECRET. This is depriving us of knowledge we badly need which we could make use of without serious risk to sensitive security matters.

b. Review of requests denied by I&SO for the employment of persons on a regular or consulting basis with unique or unusual qualifications where the final decision on such cases requires the taking of a calculated security risk to achieve certain Agency objectives. Assistant Directors should be discouraged from making use of this appeal procedure except in very unusual circumstances. The purpose of the proposed procedure is not to interfere in any way with the discharge by I&SO of its central responsibility for protecting the security of the Agency, but rather to relieve them in those exceptional cases where a risk must be taken of the burden of sole responsibility for such decisions, which must involve a balancing of the degree of risk against the estimate of the benefit to be secured.

2. I am sending a copy of this suggestion to Walter Wolf.

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Distribution:

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